

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14771

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: MEETING OF MINISTERS-PRESIDENT IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 14651 (NOTAL
(B) STATE 213855 (NOTAL)
(C) PARIS 25732 (NOTAL)
(D) PARIS 25691 (NOTAL)
(E) USBER 2295 (NOTAL)

1. AT SEPTEMBER 7 BONN GROUP MEETING, ALLIED REPS
AGAIN ASKED, AS THEY DID ON AUGUST 26 AND 31, FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION ON PLANNED LAENDER MINISTERS-
PRESIDENT MEETING. FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHLL SAID THAT
THE FOREIGN OFFICE DOES NOT YET HAVE AN ANSWER AS TO
WHAT THE AGENDA WILL BE OR WHETHER THE NATIONAL STIFTUNG
WILL BE A TOPIC. AT PRESENT, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAS
NO PLANS TO ATTEND. MEICHSNER OF THE BERLIN REPRESENTATION
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TATION SAID THAT THERE IS NO REASON, BASED ON PAST
PRACTICE, TO BELIEVE SCHMIDT WILL GO TO BERLIN SINCE
THE CHANCELLOR TRADITIONALLY MEETS WITH THE MINISTERS
PRESIDENT IN BONN AFTER THEY HAVE HAD A SESSION
IN THE HOST LAND CAPITAL.

2. VON BRAUNMUEHL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE CHANCELLERY

IS HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THE ALLIED REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. IT IS UNPRECEDENTED FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ASK THE LAENDER MINISTERS PRESIDENT FOR THE AGENDA IN ADVANCE AND THIS IS NECESSARILY A SENSITIVE SUBJECT. THE CHANCELLERY NOW HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION HOW BEST TO MEET THE ALLIED REQUEST.

3. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT OBSERVES (REF B) THE FRG'S ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE MEETING IS PROBABLY RATHER LIMITED. HOWEVER, WE WILL CONSULT WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUGGESTING TO THE FRG THAT IT ATTEMPT TO SUPPORT STOBBE'S EFFORTS TO KEEP THE MEETING LOW-KEY. WE WILL ALSO SEEK TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH THAT A PROTEST TO THE FRG WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE EFFECTIVE SINCE THE MEETING ROTATES AMONG THE LAENDER AND SINCE THE FRG HAS LITTLE OR NO CONTROL OVER ITS FORM OR CONTENT. EVEN IF THE FRG CAN OBTAIN THE AGENDA, IT IS PRESUMABLY POWERLESS TO PREVENT MINISTERS-PRESIDENT FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTY (E.G. GOPPEL) FROM RAISING ISSUES SUCH AS THE NATIONAL STIFTUNG WHICH HAVE BEEN USED TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST.
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